

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
ARKANSAS SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION COMMISSION
ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF POLLUTION CONTROL AND ECOLOGY

July 31, 1998

To Individuals on Enclosed List:

SUBJECT: Unified Watershed Assessment for Arkansas

On June 25, 1998, information concerning the Clean Water Action Plan (CWAP), and more specifically, the Unified Watershed Assessment portion of the plan was mailed to you. Randall Mathis, Director of Arkansas Department of Pollution Control and Ecology (ADPC&E); Randy Young, Executive Director, Arkansas Soil and Water Conservation Commission; and Kalven Trice, State Conservationist, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) have been asked to jointly complete the Unified Assessment for Arkansas.

On July 9, 1998, an information meeting was held to discuss the Unified Watershed Assessment, and identify potential sources of readily available information that may be used for the assessment. Representatives from more than 20 agencies, organizations, and private groups participated in the meeting. A working group was assigned the tasks of (1) making recommendations for information to be used in the assessment; (2) developing prioritization methods to use; and (3) preparing materials for public dissemination. The group met on July 13, 17, and 21, 1998, to complete the assigned tasks. On July 30 a second meeting of the large group was held to give comments and consider and approve the draft assessment and prioritization for public comment.

Each 8-digit unit was assessed based on the characteristics and conditions of waters within the overall health of the aquatic system using the following framework:

- Category I Watersheds in Need of Restoration
- Category II Watersheds Meeting Goals, Including Those Needing Action to Sustain Water Quality.
- Category III Watersheds with Pristine/Sensitive Aquatic System Conditions on Lands Administered by Federal, State, or Tribal Governments
- Category IV Watersheds with Insufficient Data to Make an Assessment.

Enclosed for your consideration and comment is a description of the Unified Watershed Assessment process used to categorize the 8-digit Hydrologic Unit watersheds in the state and the resulting prioritization of those watersheds assessed as Category I.

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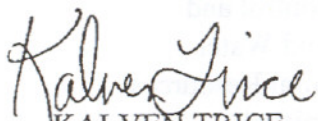
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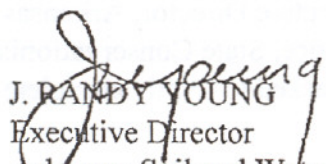
Please return your comments by September 1, 1998, to Ken Brazil, ASWCC, 101 East Capitol Avenue, Suite 350, Little Rock, Arkansas 72201.

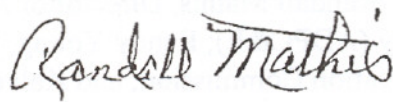
If you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact these individuals directly: Ken Brazil of ASWCC at (501) 682-3980; Bill Keith of ADPC&E (501) 682-0660; or Dennis Carman of NRCS (501) 301-3141.

Thank you for your consideration and interest.

Sincerely,


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State Conservationist
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Unified Watershed Assessments and Restoration Priorities
July 30, 1998

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Bob Morgan	ASWCC	Jane Jones-Schulz	NHC

II. Data Used to Conduct Assessments

III. Category I - Watersheds in Need of Restoration

IV. Category II - Watersheds Meeting Goals, Including Those Needing Action to Sustain Water Quality

V. Category III - Watersheds with Pristine/Sensitive Aquatic System Conditions on Lands Administered by Federal, State, or Tribal Governments

VI. Category IV - Watersheds with Insufficient Data to Make an Assessment

VII. Watershed Restoration Priorities

- | | | |
|-----------------|----------------------|-----------|
| 1. Beaver Lake | 4. Strawberry | 7. Cadron |
| 2. Lower Little | 5. Bayou Bartholomew | |
| 3. Illinois | 6. Little Red | |

VIII. What's Next? → Send TO TRR

1. Send for Public
2. Resolve Comments

AR, NRCS, USDA, GOV

XI. Strategies

1. Develop and Implement Watershed Restoration Action Strategies
2. Beginning in FY 1999